FORM F - STRUCTURE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Form no.
71

wn Lexington

dress Belfry Park

me Old Belfry

Condition excellent

Date August, 1975

6. Recorded by E.W. Reinhardt

Organization Lexington Historical Commissic

esent use monument

esent owner Town of Lexington

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		\ 27.
	energy.	

4. Map. Draw sketch of structure location in relation to nearest cross streets, buildings, other structures, natural features. Indicate north.

	pe of structure (che	eck one)	
•	idge	pound	
i.	nal	powder house	
	m	street	
	:t	tower	
	gate	tunnel	
	kiln	wall	
	lighthouse	windmill	
	other belfry (repr	oduction)	
j.	. Description		
	Date 1910		
source Worthen, Calendar History,			
	p. 108		
Construction material wood			
	Dimensions 6' x 6	' x 18'	
	Setting hilltop		

M N HAR	THE GREEN THE SAME THE STATE OF THE STATE
	PELFRY HILL ST
DO NOT WI USGS Quadr	RITE IN THIS SPACE
MHC Photo	no.

7. Original owner (if known) Town of Lexington

Original use original belfry rang warning to town that British were coming April 18-19, 17

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates continued as meeting and alarm bell

8. Historical significance.

Original was located on the green (Monument B24) and rang the alarm that the British troops were coming on the night of April 18-19, 1775. In 1797 the original was sold to the Parker family (John Parker, Capt. of Minute Men, descendants, including Theodore Parker, transcendentalist, abolitionist, and friend of Emerson), moved to Spring Street at the intersection with old Concord Road. In 1891 the belfry was acquired by the Lexington Historical Society, moved to the Belfry Hill site at the base of the hill on the Hancock School property. A gale wind destroyed the original belfry in 1909, and the present reproduction was created in 1910 and moved to the Belfry Hill location in 1913. The present structure therefore functions as a monument commemorating the original.

In March 1964 wm. Maloney donates a 1,600 pound bell to replace badly-cracked bell in old Belfry on clarke St. h.ll. Replacement was once in Wilmington Methodot Church.

In Nov. 1971 Harrington House at Comer of ClarkeSt. and Mass. Are. torn down to make way for Belfry Hill Park.

9. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

Worthen, Edwin B. A Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts 1620-1946.

Lexington: Lexington Savings Bank, 1946.

Hinkle + Cleghorn, Life in Lexington 1946-1995 Kelley, Beverly Allison. Lexington: A Century of Photographs p. 78 + 86.